

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #3

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT:** Within the Southern District, waters of the Barabara Creek Subdistrict, the Tutka Bay Subdistrict, the Halibut Cove Subdistrict and the Seldovia Bay Subdistrict opened to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing for the 2012 season at 6:00 am this morning for a 24-hour period. Commercial fishing periods will continue on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday until further notice. Waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict, including both the Port Graham and English Bay sections, will remain closed to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing until further notice as a precautionary measure to protect sockeye salmon returning to English Bay lakes. These areas may open to commercial harvest when spawning escapement levels are tracking to meet the combined inriver goal of 11,028 – 18,528 for this system. The sustainable escapement goal for salmon spawning in English Bay Lakes is 6,000 – 13,500 sockeye salmon. In addition, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association anticipates harvesting 5,028 sockeye salmon for broodstock purposes. Of these, eggs from 3,722 will be used to stock Hazel Lake and Leisure Lake, 700 to stock the Tutka Bay Lagoon, 322 to stock English Bay Lakes and 284 to stock Kirschner Lake. As of 5/31 zero fish had passed the English Bay River weir.

**KAMISHAK BAY DISTRICT:** In the Kamishak Bay District, all waters, with the exception of the McNeil and Paint River subdistricts, opened at 6:00 A.M. this morning to commercial salmon seining. Fishing in this area will continue seven days per week, until further notice. The McNeil and Paint River subdistricts are being closed early as a precautionary measure to protect sockeye salmon returning to Mikfik Lake.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association began cost recovery on Monday, May 21 in Resurrection Bay. Cost recovery fishing continues seven days per week from 6:00 A.M. through 10:00 P.M. daily. To date 10,697 sockeye salmon have been harvested. This compares to an anticipated cumulative harvest of 47,500 fish by this date assuming an anticipated total return of 216,000 fish. Actual cost recovery harvest vs. anticipated harvest by day is shown below.

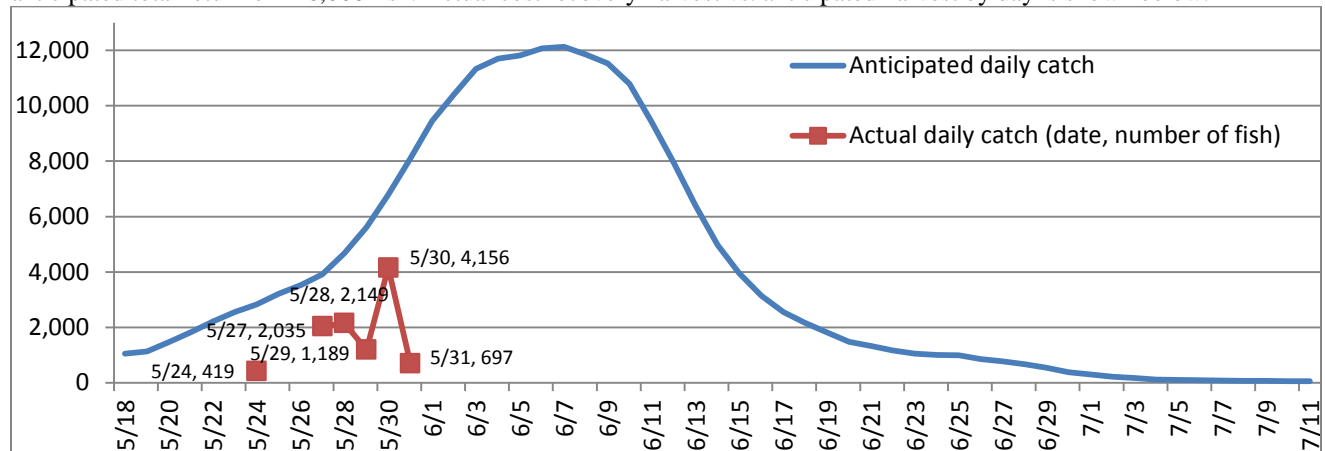


Figure 1.- Anticipated versus actual cost recovery harvest levels in the Resurrection Bay North Subdistrict, as of June 1.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, June 8.**

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 1-800/478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.